

DISCOVER AMERICA

Teacher Guide



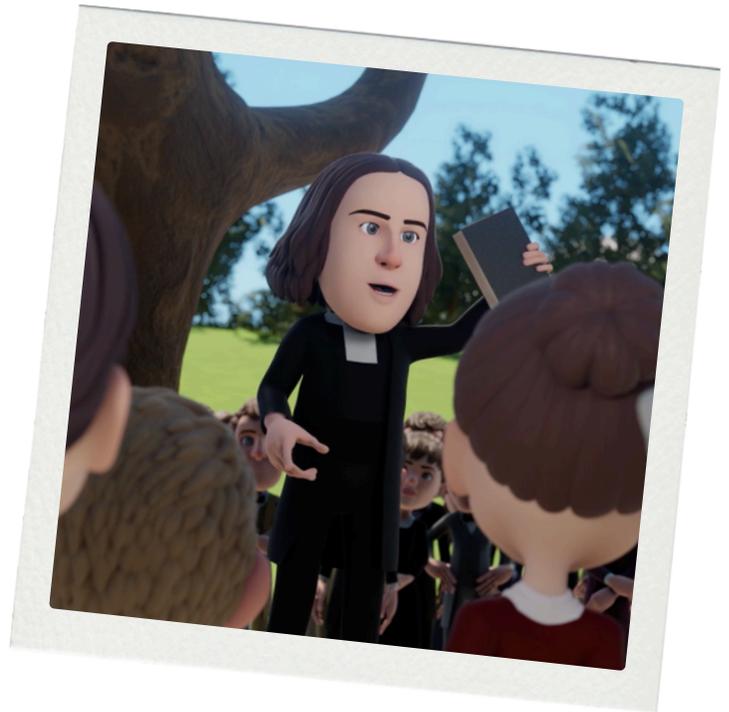
Faith and Freedom: The First Great Awakening's Influence on America's Founding

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Key Themes

- Awakening to Faith and Unity
- Faith in Our Founding
- Faith Across Denominations
- Self-Reliance and Personal Responsibility
- Self-Governance and Fairness
- The Value of Freedom and Democracy



Core Values

- Community
- Life
- Faith
- Liberty

Learning Objectives

Students will be able to

- Recognize the historical context of the First Great Awakening.
- Describe the role of religious beliefs in helping settlers face challenges.
- Identify the meaning of “a city upon a hill” in John Winthrop’s speech.
- Understand how the Bible influenced early settlers.
- Discuss how the First Great Awakening brought communities together through shared faith.
- Identify how the beliefs of preachers like George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards impacted unity in the colonies.
- Explain the relationship between unity, faith, and community during the First Great Awakening.
- Understand the role of self-reliance and self-government in shaping American identity.
- Discuss the connection between the First Great Awakening and the founding principles of America.

Key Terms

- 0 1 **Bible:** a holy book inspired by God that teaches about Him, His love, and how He helps us live a good life.
- 0 2 **Christianity:** a religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.
- 0 3 **colony:** a place where a group of people settle and live, but it is still ruled by another country.
- 0 4 **community:** a group of people who live, work, or play together and support one another, like a neighborhood or a classroom.
- 0 5 **cornerstone:** something very important that other things are built on.
- 0 6 **denomination:** a group of Christians who practice their faith in God in a similar way.
- 0 7 **faith:** trusting and believing in something or someone.
- 0 8 **First Great Awakening:** a revival — a new excitement — about the religious beliefs brought to the New World by the first settlers from England.
- 0 9 **Founding Fathers:** the leaders who helped establish the United States as an independent country.
- 1 0 **honor:** to feel or show admiration or respect for something or someone.
- 1 1 **metaphor:** when we say one thing is another thing to show how they are alike.
- 1 2 **preacher:** a person who talks to others about God and teaches them lessons from the Bible.
- 1 3 **religious revival:** a renewed excitement about God and His plan.
- 1 4 **self-government:** making decisions about how to live and work together as a group, without someone (like a king) telling you what to do.

Key Terms

- 1 5 **self-reliance:** taking care of yourself and taking responsibility for your choices.
- 1 6 **simile:** when we compare one thing to another using the words like or as.
- 1 7 **spiritual principles:** important ideas or values that help guide how we think, feel, and act based on our beliefs about God.
- 1 8 **unity:** working together as one group to achieve a common goal.

Introduction

TELL Students

Alright, little patriots, let's start by looking at some examples of similes and metaphors that you might already know.

Here are some common similes:

- "As brave as a lion."
- "She swims like a fish."
- "His smile was as bright as the sun."

And here are some common metaphors:

- "Time is a thief."
- "The world is a stage."
- "He is a shining star."

Now, let's learn what these mean and how we use them to describe things! A **simile** is when we compare one thing to another using the words *like* or *as*. For example, if I said, "The stars are like diamonds in the sky," I'm comparing stars to diamonds because they both sparkle. This helps us understand the stars in a creative way, like imagining they are as shiny as diamonds. But there's another way to compare things called a metaphor. A **metaphor** is when we say one thing *is* another thing to show how they are alike. For example, if I said, "The stars are diamonds in the sky," I'm not saying the stars are actually diamonds, but I'm showing that they sparkle beautifully, just like diamonds. Now, let's use both of these ideas to learn about the First Great Awakening. The First Great Awakening was like a giant alarm clock for people's hearts and minds. **[Reference Alarm Clock Image]** Just as an alarm clock wakes us up in the morning, the First Great Awakening woke people up to remember their faith, come together as a community, and focus on what really mattered. It was a wake-up call for everyone to think about how they lived their lives and treated others. But there's another way to think about the First Great Awakening—as a metaphor. The First Great Awakening was a light shining in the darkness, guiding people back to their faith and showing them how to live with kindness and purpose. The light represents the way people felt hope again. Both similes and metaphors help us understand big ideas in creative ways. The First Great Awakening was an important time in history because it helped people come together, renew their faith in God, and work as a community to make the world brighter for everyone.

Introduction

ASK Students

How can similes and metaphors improve your writing? What are other common similes and metaphors that you can think of? Please turn to your neighbor and discuss. [Give students three to five minutes and then discuss as a class.]

TELL Students

Now, back to the First Great Awakening! **The First Great Awakening** was a revival, a renewed excitement or interest in something that had been forgotten or ignored. In this case, it was about the religious beliefs brought to the New World by the first settlers from England. These beliefs helped shape how the settlers lived, worked, and treated one another, making faith an important part of their daily lives. The settlers who brought these beliefs were brave and determined. They traveled across the Atlantic Ocean to create a new life. Their journey was filled with challenges like rough seas, limited supplies, and the uncertainty of what awaited them in the new land.

[Reference Settlers Travel Image] Their religious beliefs gave them hope and strength to face such hardships. But what exactly were those beliefs, and why did they matter so much? To understand how the First Great Awakening inspired people to reconnect with these beliefs, we need to take a step back—almost 100 years before this incredible revival began. Let's explore how the settlers' faith helped them build strong communities and why it became the foundation for the First Great Awakening.

ASK Students

Why do you think the settlers' religious beliefs were so important in helping them face the challenges of their journey?

TELL Students

The settlers' religious beliefs were important because they gave them hope, strength, and a sense of purpose to face the many challenges of their journey. These beliefs also helped them work together, build strong communities, and remain united in the face of uncertainty. In the spring of 1630, a man named John Winthrop led a group of people from England across the Atlantic Ocean by boat. **[Reference John Winthrop Image]** They were heading to a place we now call Massachusetts to start a new life. As we mentioned earlier, this journey was challenging. The ships were small, and storms could make the ocean rough and scary.

Introduction

TELL Students (continued)

Sometimes the food and water ran out, and people could get sick because they didn't have medicine. There were no detailed maps to show the safest way to travel, either. Even with all these challenges, John Winthrop and his group were brave enough to make the trip. Before they began, Winthrop gave a special speech to explain why they were leaving England and what they hoped to do in the New World. In his speech, he said:

"We must delight in each other; make other's conditions our own; rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together, always having before our eyes our commission and community in the work, as members of the same body. So shall we keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace . . . For we must consider that we shall be as a city upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us."

This speech inspired the group to stay hopeful during their long and risky journey.

ASK Students

Why do you think John Winthrop's speech was so important to the group? What did Winthrop mean by "a city upon a hill"?

TELL Students

When John Winthrop said "a city upon a hill," he meant that the colony should be a shining example for others to see—like a bright light that shows people the way. A **colony** is a place where people settle and live, but it is still ruled by another country. He wanted their colony to stand out by working together, being kind, and showing respect for one another, so others could look up to them. Winthrop was inspired by a verse from the Bible, in the Book of Matthew, Chapter 5, Verse 14, which says: *"You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden."*

The **Bible** is a holy book inspired by God that teaches about Him, His love, and how He helps us live a good life and treat others with respect and kindness. **[Reference Bible Image]** The Bible has two main parts:

- The Old Testament, which tells stories from before Jesus was born.
- The New Testament, which tells about Jesus' life and His teachings.

Christians believe the Bible is God's Word, given to help people know Him and follow His guidance. John Winthrop believed that the new colony in Massachusetts could be like in the Bible's teaching—a light of hope for everyone to see. Winthrop believed that by working together, showing kindness, and respecting one another, they could honor God and inspire others.

Introduction

TELL Students (continued)

To **honor** means to feel or show admiration or respect for something or someone. This idea—respecting others because they are created by God—became very important in American history. It's even found in the Declaration of Independence, which says that all people are given rights by their Creator (God).

ASK Students

What do you think it means to be a "light of the world"? What could the colonists do to be "lights of the world"?

TELL Students ✍️

To be a "light of the world" means to be an example of kindness, goodness, and love that others can see and follow. John Winthrop hoped that the colonists could be "lights of the world" by working together, helping one another, and showing respect for everyone. However, things didn't always go as smoothly as Winthrop had dreamed. The colonies didn't always get along because not everyone shared the same beliefs. Different groups of Christians, called denominations, had their own ways of practicing their faith. A **denomination** is a group of Christians who practice their faith in a similar way. These differences sometimes caused disagreements and made it hard for the colonies to work together as one community. Instead of being united, the colonists often argued about how to worship God. For example, Rhode Island was founded by people who left Massachusetts due to disagreements with Puritanism. Pennsylvania became home to the Quakers, a Christian group that formed after the English Civil War. Georgia banned Catholicism, showing how different beliefs sometimes led to tension among the colonies. These colonies, each founded for different reasons, represent the different denominations that existed in early America. Just as people in these colonies had different religious beliefs, they also had different ways of practicing and interpreting their faith. However, despite these differences, the idea of being a "light of the world" through kindness and respect remained an important principle for many.

ASK Students

How did different religious beliefs affect the colonists ability to work together as a community?

Introduction

TELL Students

Religious differences sometimes caused disagreements and made it hard for the colonies to work together as one community. Instead of being united, the colonists often argued about how to worship God. Years later, the First Great Awakening helped people realize that they needed to reconnect with God and focus on what they had in common, instead of their differences. This movement reminded everyone of the importance of faith—trusting and believing in God—and **unity**, which means working together as one group to achieve a common goal. The First Great Awakening helped bring the colonies closer together and taught them how to live and work as a community, despite their differences.

ASK Students

Now think about your own community. What brings people together where you live? Is it a shared goal, a common activity, or something everyone values? Just like the First Great Awakening reminded the colonists of their shared faith, what do you think helps your community stay united?

TELL Students

Focusing on what we have in common helps us work together because it reminds us that we are all part of the same community. A **community** is a group of people who live, work, or play together and support one another, like a neighborhood or a classroom. Shared values, such as kindness and respect, help people solve problems, support each other, and achieve more together. However, the colonies didn't always act like a united community. Remember, a colony is a place where people settle and live, but it is still ruled by another country. The colonists often forgot John Winthrop's idea that "the eyes of all people" were watching them, and they sometimes mistreated one another because of their religious disagreements. By the 1730s, the First Great Awakening swept through the colonies. This revival helped unite Christians by encouraging them to focus on their faith and come together as a community. It reminded the colonists of their shared beliefs and the importance of treating one another with kindness and respect. One of the most important leaders of this movement was a preacher named George Whitefield. **[Reference George Whitefield Image]** A **preacher** is someone who talks to others about God and teaches lessons from the Bible. Preachers often deliver speeches, called sermons, to help people know God better and understand how to live in a way that honors Him.

Introduction

TELL Students (continued)

Whitefield's sermons were powerful and emotional, helping many people reconnect with God and become unified in caring about each other like the Bible says to do. Whitefield's message encouraged colonists to see themselves as equals before God, no matter their differences, and inspired them to work together. His preaching brought large groups of people together, making them feel like part of a larger community. This unity was one of the lasting impacts of the First Great Awakening, which strengthened bonds within the colonies and helped them work toward common goals.

ASK Students

How are a colony and a community the same? How are they different? Which would you prefer to live in and why?

TELL Students

A colony and a community have some similarities, but they are also different in important ways. A colony is a group of people who settle in a new place, but they are still ruled by another country. For example, the colonies were ruled by England, which meant they had to follow England's laws and decisions, even though they lived far away. **[Reference Distance Between England and Colonies Image]** People in a colony are part of a larger empire, and they have to answer to the country that controls them. On the other hand, a community is a group of people who live, work, or play together and support one another, like a neighborhood, a school, or a town. Communities are usually focused on helping each other and working together where they live. In a community, people make decisions that affect their daily lives and are often able to solve problems together. While both a colony and a community involve people working and living together, the key difference is that a colony is governed by another country, whereas a community is centered around local cooperation and shared goals.

ASK Students

How do you think the fact that the colonies were ruled by England affected how the colonists worked together as a community? How might their experience have been different if they had more control over their own decisions, like a community does?

Introduction

TELL Students

When the colonies were ruled by England, the colonists didn't have as much control over the decisions that affected their daily lives. They had to follow laws made by a government which was far away. This made it difficult for the colonies to fully cooperate and make decisions on their own, like a community does. However, even with these challenges, the colonists still worked together in many ways, like in farming and building. This cooperation taught them the importance of unity and independence. It helped them understand that when people work together and make decisions based on fairness, they can accomplish great things. Later, when the Founding Fathers created a new government, they used these lessons to form a country based on unity and fairness.

[Reference Founding Fathers Image] The **Founding Fathers** were the leaders who helped establish the United States as an independent country. They worked together to write important documents like the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, which laid the foundation for the new nation. Just like the colonies worked together as a community despite being ruled by England, the Founding Fathers worked together to create a government that represented the people's voices. Benjamin Franklin, one of the Founding Fathers, mentioned that "people of all groups and denominations" came to hear George Whitefield speak. Whitefield traveled throughout the colonies, delivering sermons about faith, hope, and unity. This message brought people together, regardless of their differences. But what does faith mean? **Faith** is trusting and believing in something or someone. For Christians, faith means trusting in God and believing in His love and promises, even though they can't see Him. **Christianity** is a religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the Son of God. For George Whitefield, it didn't matter what type of denomination someone belonged to. He believed that Jesus' love was for everyone, no matter how they worshiped. Whitefield taught that faith is about choosing to have Christ's love in your heart, no matter your background or beliefs.

ASK Students

Why do you think George Whitefield emphasized that Jesus' love was meant for everyone? Do you think Whitefield was popular among the colonists?

TELL Students

George Whitefield believed that Jesus' love was for everyone because he thought faith was about having Christ's love in your heart, not about belonging to a specific group. **[Reference George Whitefield Image]**

Introduction

TELL Students (continued)

He wanted people to focus on what united them rather than on their differences. This belief guided his actions and the way he shared his message. Whitefield traveled tirelessly, delivering sermons to people from all walks of life, regardless of their background or denomination. His message made him very popular. His powerful voice and inspiring sermons earned him the title of America's first famous person—or what we might call a celebrity today. Whitefield delivered about 18,000 sermons to nearly 10 million people, not only in the New World but also in other countries. Thousands of people would gather to hear him speak at once, eager to hear his message of unity and hope. Whitefield's message of Christ's love for all helped unite the colonies by reminding everyone that they were equal before God, no matter what denomination they belonged to. This idea became one of the key lessons of the First Great Awakening, influencing how people viewed their communities and their shared goals. His actions show us that beliefs are powerful because they guide what we say, how we act, and the impact we have on the world around us.

ASK Students

Why do you think George Whitefield's message of unity and Christ's love helped bring people together during the First Great Awakening? How did his belief that faith is about God's love in our hearts—rather than belonging to a specific group—make his message more powerful?

TELL Students

George Whitefield's message of unity and Christ's love helped bring people together during the First Great Awakening because it focused on what everyone shared—faith and the love of God—rather than what separated them. By teaching that faith is about having Christ's love in our hearts, not about belonging to a specific group or denomination, Whitefield made his message useful for everyone. This belief resonated with people from all walks of life, regardless of their background. It showed people that their faith was between them and God, and that they could connect with others in a meaningful way no matter where they came from or how they worshiped. This approach to faith created a sense of belonging and unity, which helped unite communities during a time of division. The First Great Awakening united Christians, and even attracted people who weren't Christians. This shows how Whitefield's message crossed boundaries, bringing together people with different beliefs for a common cause.

Introduction

ASK Students

How do you think George Whitefield's belief in the importance of personal faith and Christ's love for everyone, regardless of their background, helped him connect with so many people during the First Great Awakening?

TELL Students 📹

Another key figure in the First Great Awakening was Jonathan Edwards, a pastor from Massachusetts who became one of the most influential preachers of his time. **[Reference Jonathan Edwards Image]** Before George Whitefield began his travels, Jonathan Edwards was already making a significant impact with his powerful sermons at a Congregational church in Northampton, Massachusetts, in the early 1730s. Edwards was known for his passionate delivery and ability to connect deeply with his listeners, which made his sermons widely known. But Edwards didn't just talk about faith in a simple way. He challenged his audience to think carefully about their personal relationship with God and encouraged them to live their lives in a way that honored Him. His messages pushed people to grow closer to God and allow Him to change their hearts and their ways. As a result, Edwards helped transform the way many people thought about their faith, leading them to be more committed and devoted. Let's dive into another episode of Star Spangled Adventures to learn more about his important role in the First Great Awakening!

WATCH 📺

Star Spangled Adventures Cartoon [Ep. 37: First Great Awakening](#)



Lesson

TELL Students 📷

Jonathan Edwards was a powerful preacher who gave what many people believe is the most famous sermon of the 1700s. It was called *Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*. **[Reference Jonathan Edwards Image]** This sermon became very well-known and had a big impact during the First Great Awakening. Edwards spoke about how people from all over—from the North, South, East, and West—were turning back to God and renewing their faith. In his sermon, Edwards said:

"And now you have an extraordinary opportunity, a day wherein CHRIST has flung the door of mercy wide open, and stands in the door calling and crying with a loud voice to poor sinners; a day wherein many are flocking to him, and pressing into the kingdom of God; many are daily coming from the east, west, north and south."

This means that Edwards believed God's love and forgiveness were available to everyone, no matter where they lived. He wanted people to understand that it was never too late to turn back to God and become part of His kingdom. His sermon didn't just touch individuals—it impacted entire communities. As people began to reconnect with God, they also came together to support one another, creating a stronger sense of unity and purpose. **[Reference Church Image]** Churches became central places for gathering, prayer, and discussion, where neighbors encouraged one another to live better lives. Edwards' message inspired people to see themselves as part of a larger spiritual family, which helped strengthen their communities during a very important time in history.

ASK Students

How do you think Jonathan Edwards' message about God's love and forgiveness helped people feel more connected to each other and their communities?

TELL Students 🗝️

Jonathan Edwards' message about God's love and forgiveness helped people feel more connected to each other by encouraging them to leave behind bad habits and focus on living lives guided by God's kindness, honesty, and respect. He wanted people to leave their old ways behind and grow closer to Christ. He believed that true faith wasn't just about going to church or belonging to a certain group—it was about having a real change in your heart. Like George Whitefield, Edwards taught that following Christ means letting God's love guide how you think and act every day.

Lesson

TELL Students (continued)

Edwards explained that true faith reaches deep into the heart and leads people to live good and obedient lives. Being **obedient** means following the rules or doing what you are asked to do. When someone is obedient, they listen carefully and make good choices to do what is right. For example, being obedient could mean listening to your parents when they ask you to help around the house, following your teacher's instructions at school, or doing what God teaches in the Bible, like being kind, honest, and helpful. In a community, obedience is important because it helps everyone work together peacefully. When people follow rules and make good choices, it creates trust, respect, and cooperation among everyone. Edwards wanted people to live in a way that showed they were honoring God in their choices and actions, which also made their communities stronger and more united.

ASK Students

Why do you think it's important for people in a community to make good choices and follow rules? How does being obedient help everyone work together peacefully?

TELL Students

It's essential for people in a community to make thoughtful choices and follow rules because it builds trust, creates a peaceful environment, and allows everyone to work together. Jonathan Edwards taught that letting God's love guide our decisions makes us kinder, more honest, and more respectful. This way of living not only honors God but also strengthens the entire community by fostering cooperation and unity. The idea of honoring God and treating everyone equally was a central message of the First Great Awakening. It reminded people that everyone is created equal by their Creator, or God. This belief—that all people are created equal—became a cornerstone of the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration states that all people are given rights by their Creator, such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. A **cornerstone** is something very important that other things are built on, like a strong foundation. **[Reference Cornerstone Image]** For example, when constructing a house, the cornerstone is the first stone laid, and everything else is built around it to ensure the house is strong and steady. In ideas or beliefs, a cornerstone is a key principle that other important things are based on. The belief that everyone is created equal is a cornerstone of America because it shaped the foundation of our nation and its government.

Lesson

TELL Students (continued)

Similarly, other cornerstones like faith, liberty, life, and community continue to guide how our country operates and grows. Faith reminds us to act with kindness, liberty ensures freedom for everyone, life teaches us to value and protect each individual, and community encourages support and cooperation. These cornerstones help us build a society where people can thrive together.

ASK Students

What do you think is the most important cornerstone in your community—faith, liberty, life, or community—and how does it help people work together and thrive?

TELL Students

The First Great Awakening also emphasized two key ideas that shaped how people lived and worked together: self-reliance and self-government. Let's watch another exciting Learn More with Liberty to learn more!

WATCH

Learn More with Liberty: [Awakened to Freedom: How the First Great Awakening Sparked Independence](#)



TELL Students

Self-reliance means taking care of yourself and taking responsibility for your choices.

[Reference Self-reliance Image] The preachers of the Great Awakening, like George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards, reminded people that accepting Christ was a personal decision—one that no one else could make for them. This idea of personal responsibility helped people understand the importance of making thoughtful, independent decisions in other areas of life as well, like how to contribute to their communities or how to solve problems. **Self-government**, on the other hand, means making decisions about how to live and work together as a group, without someone else—like a king—making all the rules.

Lesson

ASK Students

What is self-reliance? What is self-government?

TELL Students

The First Great Awakening helped the colonists realize that they had self-reliance and the right to make their own choices—not just in faith, but in how their lives and communities were governed. These ideas became the cornerstones of America’s foundation, much like the belief in equality expressed in the Declaration of Independence. The idea of self-reliance aligns with the cornerstone of faith, encouraging people to trust in their own decisions, guided by spiritual principles. **Spiritual principles** are values based on our beliefs about God, and they help guide how we think, feel, and act. They teach us how to make good choices, treat others with kindness and respect, and live a life that honors God. For example, principles like honesty, love, forgiveness, and helping others remind us to do what is right, even when it’s hard. These principles act as a map, guiding us through life and showing our faith through our actions and care for others. Self-government connects to the cornerstone of liberty, ensuring that people have the freedom to make decisions for their communities. When we make decisions based on these values, we support one another and create fair, just communities. Together, these principles help form a sense of family and community, where everyone can thrive. The First Great Awakening not only united the colonies, but it also inspired the values that would guide them as they moved toward independence and built a new nation. This teaches us that our beliefs inspire our actions, and when we act on values like faith, fairness, and liberty, we help shape a society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

ASK Students

How do you think the beliefs and values from the First Great Awakening, like faith, fairness, and liberty, influenced how the colonies came together and worked toward independence? How do your own beliefs guide your actions today? Why do you think it was important for the people in the colonies to make their own choices and work together to create fair rules for their community?

TELL Students

Please read the following passage to learn more. [Print and distribute fourth grade student text.]

It’s important for people to make their own choices and work together as a group because it helps create fairness and ensures that everyone’s needs are considered.

Lesson

TELL Students (continued)

When people take responsibility for their decisions and collaborate to make rules, it builds stronger and more united communities. This idea became even more important during the First Great Awakening. The First Great Awakening also introduced the idea that one strong voice, speaking what the people believed, could lead to big changes. This idea became crucial when the colonies decided they wanted a government that got its power from the people, not from a king. Before this, kings and rulers made all the decisions, and the people didn't have a say. The First Great Awakening reminded people that everyone is created equal by God and has the ability to make their own choices about faith and how to live their lives. It also helped people realize they should have a say in how their government worked. This movement brought people together and gave them the courage to believe that their voices mattered—ideas that helped shape the foundation of America and remain important today.

ASK Students

Why is it important for everyone in a community to have a say in making decisions? How can working together make the community stronger?

TELL Students

It's very important for people to have a say in how their government works because it ensures that everyone's voice is heard and respected. When we remember that everyone is created equal by God, it means that no one person is more important than another, and everyone deserves to be treated fairly. This belief—that all people are created equal—was one of the core ideas that led to the formation of our country. Just like faith, liberty, life, and community are key cornerstones that guide us, this belief in equality became an important part of America's foundation. These principles help create a society where people can live together peacefully and thrive as individuals and as a community. This is why it is so important to participate in our government, like voting when you are old enough, so that we can help make decisions that benefit everyone and make sure that everyone's voice is heard. **[Reference Voting Image]** By working together, we help build a stronger, fairer community where everyone has a chance to succeed.

ASK Students

How does the belief that "all people are created equal" help shape a fair and peaceful society?
How do the principles of liberty and life contribute to this idea?

Lesson

TELL Students

In America, we have a democratic republic, which means that the people make decisions by voting. Democracy is based on the idea that everyone should have a say in the decisions that affect their lives. This includes voting to choose leaders and deciding on important issues that help shape our communities and our nation. The cornerstone of liberty connects to democracy because liberty is the freedom to make choices—whether in our personal lives or as a society. In a democratic republic, people have the power to decide what’s best for them and their communities. The cornerstone of life also connects to democracy, as it highlights the importance of valuing and protecting each individual’s right to live freely and make choices that shape their future. Life is a cornerstone that reminds us to respect each person’s right to make decisions about how they live and what they believe, which is an essential part of how a democracy functions. The First Great Awakening reminded people that their voices mattered, and this lesson still holds true today.



Extra, Extra: News about the First Great Awakening

Objective

Fourth grade students will learn about the key figures and impact of the First Great Awakening by writing a newspaper column from the perspective of a reporter.

Materials

- Paper and pencils
- Optional: Markers or colored pencils for decorating the newspaper column
- Whiteboard or projector for brainstorming

Instructions

1. **Introduction:** Explain to the students that they will pretend to be reporters living in the colonies during the First Great Awakening. Their job is to write a newspaper column about one of the famous preachers of the time—such as George Whitefield or Jonathan Edwards—and the powerful impact of the First Great Awakening on the colonies.
2. **Brainstorming:** As a class, brainstorm key details about the First Great Awakening and its major figures. Write these on the board:
 - What was the First Great Awakening? (A religious revival that brought people together and focused on renewed faith)
 - Who were the key preachers? (George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards)
 - What were their messages? (Unity, faith, equality before God, personal responsibility for faith)
 - What was the impact? (People came together, focused on faith, different denominations were united)
3. **Task Explanation:**
 - Tell students they will be writing a newspaper column, just like reporters do today. They must choose one preacher from the First Great Awakening (George Whitefield, Jonathan Edwards, or another preacher they find interesting) and write a column about them.
 - In their column, they should include:
 - **A catchy headline** (Example: "Revival Sweeps Through the Colonies: George Whitefield Brings Hope!")
 - **Introduction:** A brief description of the preacher and the First Great Awakening.
 - **Details about the preacher's message:** What was the preacher trying to teach people? Why was it important?



Extra, Extra: News about the First Great Awakening

Instructions (continued)

3. Task Explanation:

- **How the movement affected the colonies:** How did it bring people together? What changed as a result of the First Great Awakening?
- **A quote or message** from the preacher.
- **Conclusion:** How do they think this movement will shape the future of the colonies?

4. Writing:

- Allow students time to write their columns. Encourage them to be creative! They can add illustrations or headlines, just like in a real newspaper.
- Remind students to focus on the facts they learned in class, but they can also make the article feel like it's coming from a reporter living at that time.

5. Sharing:

- After students have finished writing their columns, have them share them with the class. You can ask them to read their columns aloud, or they can display them on the wall as if they were real newspaper articles from the time.

6. Discussion:

- After the activity, have a brief class discussion on how the First Great Awakening helped shape the development of the colonies. Discuss how it impacted religious unity, the idea of personal faith, and how the colonies worked together.

Example Prompt:

"You are a reporter for a colonial newspaper, and you have been asked to write a column about George Whitefield, one of the most famous preachers of the First Great Awakening. Write about what he preached, why people were so moved by his message, and how his sermons impacted the colonies. Don't forget to include a catchy headline!"

Assessment:

- Review each student's newspaper column for understanding of the historical context.
- Assess creativity and accuracy in their portrayal of the First Great Awakening and the role of preachers like George Whitefield or Jonathan Edwards.



Extra, Extra: News about the First Great Awakening

Extension:

- For extra challenge, students can compare the messages of different preachers and explain how they might have influenced different groups of people in the colonies.

Extra, Extra Rubric

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Satisfactory (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Headline	The headline is catchy, creative, and perfectly reflects the topic of the column.	The headline is clear and related to the topic but could be more creative.	The headline is simple and related to the topic but lacks creativity.	The headline is unclear or irrelevant to the topic.
Introduction	Provides a strong, engaging introduction with clear background information about the preacher and the First Great Awakening.	Provides a clear introduction with some background information about the preacher and the movement.	Provides basic introduction with limited background information.	The introduction is unclear or lacks relevant information.
Details about Preacher's Message	Detailed and accurate explanation of the preacher's message, including specific quotes or teachings.	Good explanation of the preacher's message with some details and quotes.	Basic explanation of the preacher's message, but lacks depth or specific quotes.	Incomplete or unclear explanation of the preacher's message.
Impact of the Movement	Describes in depth how the First Great Awakening impacted the colonies, focusing on unity, faith, and change.	Describes how the movement impacted the colonies, with some focus on unity and change.	Describes the impact of the movement but lacks clarity or detail.	Does not adequately describe the impact of the movement.
Creativity and Presentation	The column is highly creative and includes illustrations or decorations that make it visually appealing.	The column is creative and includes some visual elements.	The column includes minimal creativity and few visual elements.	The column lacks creativity and has no visual elements.
Conclusion	Strong conclusion that ties back to the preacher's message and reflects on the long-term impact of the First Great Awakening.	Good conclusion that ties back to the preacher's message with some reflection on its impact.	Conclusion is brief and lacks strong reflection on the impact.	The conclusion is missing or unclear.

Criteria	Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Satisfactory (2)	Needs Improvement (1)
Organization and Clarity	The column is very well-organized, easy to read, and logically flows from one section to the next.	The column is organized and mostly easy to follow.	The column is somewhat disorganized or difficult to follow at times.	The column is poorly organized and hard to follow.
Introduction	Provides a strong, engaging introduction with clear background information about the preacher and the First Great Awakening.	Provides a clear introduction with some background information about the preacher and the movement.	Provides basic introduction with limited background information.	The introduction is unclear or lacks relevant information.

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Total Score: _____/32

(Score each section from 1-4, then total the points)

Feedback:

First Great Awakening Fill-in-the-Blank Quiz

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Directions: Read the sentences below and fill in the blanks with the correct word or phrase from the word bank.

Word Bank

John Winthrop Faith Unity Preachers George Whitefield
Pennsylvania Christianity Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God Rhode Island

1. The _____ Great Awakening was a religious movement in the 1700s that helped many people reconnect with their faith.
2. _____ was one of the most important preachers of the First Great Awakening.
3. The colonies didn't always get along because people practiced different denominations of _____, but the Great Awakening helped unite them through their shared faith in God.
4. _____ was a colony founded by people who disagreed with the Puritans in Massachusetts and wanted religious freedom.
5. _____ was founded by people who practiced Quakerism and wanted to live by the teachings of peace and equality.
6. _____ means trusting in God and His love, which was a key message during the Great Awakening.

First Great Awakening Fill-in-the-Blank Quiz

7. The First Great Awakening led to a stronger sense of _____ in the colonies, encouraging people to work together for common goals.

8. _____ gave a famous speech, calling for the new colony to be a "_____ upon a hill," meaning they should be a shining example to others.

Bonus Question:

Why was George Whitefield so important during the First Great Awakening?

Fill-in-the-Blank Answer Key

1. The First Great Awakening was a religious movement in the 1700s that helped many people reconnect with their faith.
a. Answer: First
2. George Whitefield was one of the most important preachers of the First Great Awakening.
a. Answer: George Whitefield
3. The colonies didn't always get along because people practiced different denominations of Christianity, but the Great Awakening helped unite them through their shared faith in God.
a. Answer: Christianity
4. Rhode Island was a colony founded by people who disagreed with the Puritans in Massachusetts and wanted religious freedom.
a. Answer: Rhode Island
5. Pennsylvania was founded by people who practiced Quakerism and wanted to live by the teachings of peace and equality.
a. Answer: Pennsylvania
6. Faith means trusting in God and His love, which was a key message during the Great Awakening.
a. Answer: Faith
7. The First Great Awakening led to a stronger sense of unity in the colonies, encouraging people to work together for common goals.
a. Answer: Unity
8. John Winthrop gave a famous speech, calling for the new colony to be a "city upon a hill," meaning they should be a shining example to others.
a. Answer: John Winthrop, city

Bonus Question:

Why was George Whitefield so important during the First Great Awakening?

Answer: George Whitefield was important because his powerful sermons helped unite people from different denominations and regions. His message of faith, hope, and unity inspired many people to reconnect with their beliefs and work together, making him one of the most influential preachers during the First Great Awakening.

Student Text

It's important for people to make their own choices and work together as a group because it helps create fairness and ensures that everyone's needs are considered. When people take responsibility for their decisions and collaborate to make rules, it builds stronger and more united communities. This idea became even more important during the First Great Awakening. The First Great Awakening also introduced the idea that one strong voice, speaking what the people believed, could lead to big changes. This idea became crucial when the colonies decided they wanted a government that got its power from the people, not from a king. Before this, kings and rulers made most of the decisions, and many people didn't have a say. The First Great Awakening reminded people that everyone is created equal by God and has the ability to make their own choices about faith and how to live their lives. It also helped people realize they should have a say in how their government worked. This movement brought people together and gave them the courage to believe that their voices mattered—ideas that helped shape the foundation of America and remain important today.



Resources

- <https://www.americanyawp.com/reader/colliding-cultures/john-winthrop-dreams-of-a-city-on-a-hill-1630/>
- <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/matthew/5>
- https://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/declare.asp
- <https://www.britannica.com/event/Glorious-Revolution#:~:text=Church%20of%20England.,What%20caused%20the%20Glorious%20Revolution%3F,non%20Catholic%20population%20and%20others>
- <https://users.ssc.wisc.edu/~rkeyser/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/TolerationAct1689.pdf>
- <https://gutenberg.org/files/20203/20203-h/20203-h.htm>
- <https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/come-poor-lost-undone-sinner>
- <https://christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/george-whitefield-did-you-know>
- <https://gutenberg.org/files/20203/20203-h/20203-h.htm>
- <https://minio.la.utexas.edu/webeditor-files/coretexts/pdf/174120sinners20angry20god.pdf>
- <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/mather-a-man-of-reason-edwards-a-supernatural-light/>
- Jefferson, Thomas. Declaration of Independence.

Images

Alarm Clock



Credit: Canva Pro.

Settlers Traveling



Credit: Canva Pro.

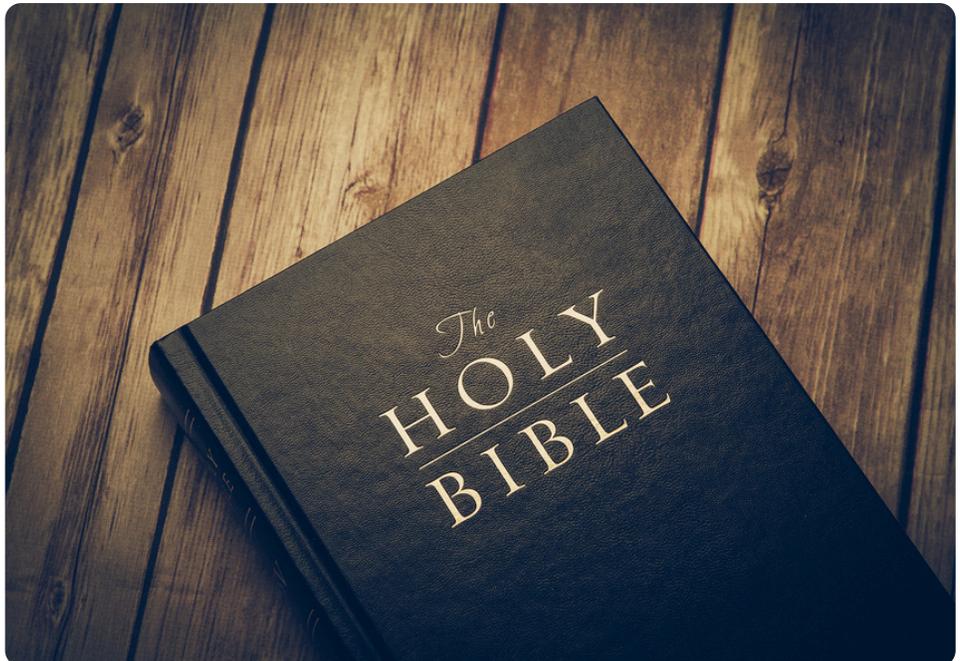
Images

John Winthrop



Credit: Wikipedia.

Bible



Credit: Canva Pro.

Images

**George
Whitefield**



Credit: Wikipedia.

**Distance from
England to
Colonies**



Credit: Google Maps.

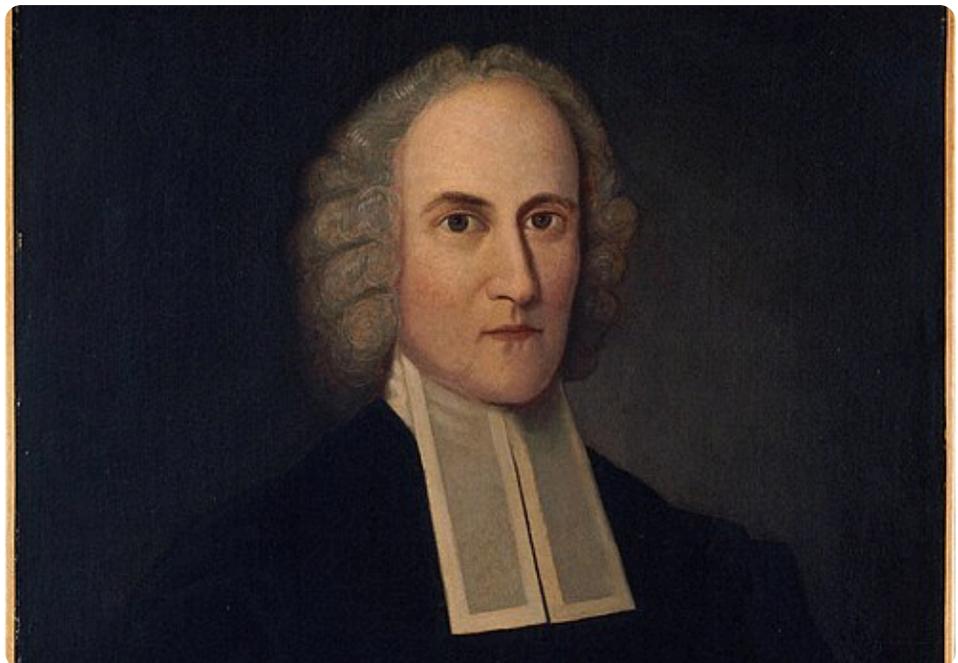
Images

Founding Fathers



Credit: Canva Pro.

John Edwards



Credit: Wikipedia.

Images

Church



Credit: Pixbay.

Cornerstone



Credit: Canva Pro.

Images

Self-reliance



Credit: Canva Pro.

Voting



Credit: Canva Pro.

